

Extension of Emergency Graduation Enrollment Accommodation: Fall 2021 Waivers

The Graduate School will waive the requirement for students to be enrolled in at least one graduate credit in order to graduate for Fall 2021. Because Covid-19 continues to impact graduate classes, research, and advising, the Graduate School is extending the waiver of the requirement to enroll in at least one graduate credit for graduation through Fall 2021, subject to eligibility criteria below, which are based on degree programs and resident status.

The waiver for Fall 2021 must be requested through the Request for Exception (RFE) process and approved by the program and the Graduate School. Programs should ensure that students meet the criteria specified below. Many students graduating in Fall 2021 will still need to enroll for other reasons.

Certificate Students

To be eligible for the waiver of the requirement to enroll for graduation, students in certificate programs must have completed all credit requirements prior to the semester in which they will graduate. An example of suitable use of this waiver is to finish Incompletes in courses begun in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021, including Incompletes in internships, clinical placements, or other kinds of off-campus fieldwork.

Master's Students

To be eligible for the waiver of the requirement to enroll for graduation, master's students must have completed all coursework and research credit requirements prior to the semester in which they will graduate. An example of suitable use of this waiver is to finish Incompletes in courses taken in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021, including Incompletes in internships, clinical placements, or other kinds of off-campus fieldwork.

Master's students who have completed all coursework and research credits but who have other outstanding requirements, such as the submission and defense of a thesis, may be eligible for the waiver of enrollment for graduation. The waiver only applies to enrollment in courses such as those numbered 888, "Candidate for Degree," when required solely to satisfy the requirement for enrollment for graduation, and not to other program requirements, such as thesis completion courses.

Doctoral Students

Because doctoral dissertators are subject to the UW System requirement to register for three dissertator credits in each semester of the academic year, they will not usually be able to waive the requirement to enroll for graduation. Programs should not approve doctoral dissertators for this waiver if they have not yet defended and would normally be required to enroll in dissertator credits.

Clinical doctorate students (Nursing Practice, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy) who have completed all coursework and research credits but who have other outstanding requirements, may be eligible for the waiver of enrollment for graduation. An example of suitable use of this waiver is to finish Incompletes in courses taken in Fall 2020, Spring 2021, or Summer 2021, including Incompletes in internships, clinical placements, or other kinds of off-campus fieldwork.

International Students

Most international students are subject to federal immigration laws that require enrollment during the semester in which they graduate. Because those laws take precedence over this waiver, most international students will not be eligible. International students need to contact the Center for International Education (CIE) to understand their eligibility and to include written confirmation from CIE with the RFE to the Graduate School.

In the past, some schools and colleges have paid international students' tuition when they were required to enroll only for the purpose of graduation, and may continue to do so.

Delayed Graduation

Students who applied to graduate in Summer 2021 but did not graduate, and who now plan to graduate in fall are eligible for the Fall 2021 waiver. They are eligible even if they received a Summer 2021 waiver. These students must request the waiver with the Request for Exception form.

Fees and Deadlines

All normal deadlines and fees for graduation still apply for students who receive an enrollment waiver for graduation.

Financial Aid

Students who do not enroll should contact UWM's Financial Aid office to consider the implications. For example, students who have an outstanding loan balance and do not enroll may no longer be able to defer monthly payments.

Access to UWM Facilities

Students who are not enrolled will lose access to some UWM facilities and services, such as libraries and Norris Health Center. Students should consider carefully whether they would need these facilities and services during the semester when they plan to graduate before making use of this enrollment accommodation.